



Office of the Attorney General
State of Texas

DAN MORALES
ATTORNEY GENERAL

July 10, 1998

Mr. Miles K. Risley
City Attorney
City of Victoria
Legal Department
P.O. Box 1758
Victoria, Texas 77902-1758

OR98-1653

Dear Mr. Risley:

You ask whether certain information is subject to required public disclosure under the Texas Open Records Act, chapter 552 of the Government Code. Your request was assigned ID# 116446.

The City of Victoria (the "city") received a request for "All the report pertaining" to a particular minor which involve a time period from December 26, 1996 to the present. In response to the request, you submitted to this office for review a copy of the records which you assert are responsive. You state that the city has released some of the requested information to the requestor. However, the city wishes to withhold the remaining information, from disclosure pursuant to section 552.101 of the Government Code. We have considered the exception you claim and have reviewed the documents at issue.

The Seventy-fifth Legislature passed House Bill 1550¹ which amends the Family Code and in part overrules Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996). In Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996), this office ruled that section 58.007 of the Family Code does not make confidential juvenile law enforcement records concerning juvenile conduct occurring on or after January 1, 1996 that are maintained by law enforcement agencies. Juvenile offender records held by law enforcement agencies are now expressly confidential under section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. However, section 58.007(c) only applies to juvenile law enforcement records concerning conduct that occurred on or after September 1, 1997. The relevant language of amended Family Code section 58.007(c) reads as follows:

¹Act of June 2, 1997, H.B. 1550, 75th Leg., R.S.

(c) Except as provided by Subsection (d), law enforcement records and files concerning a child may not be disclosed to the public and shall be:

(1) kept separate from adult files and records; and

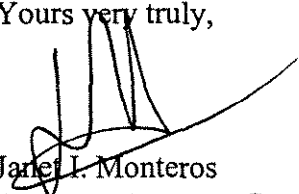
(2) maintained on a local basis only and not sent to a central, state or federal depository, except as provided by Subchapter B.

Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996) still applies to records concerning juvenile conduct that occurred from January 1, 1996 to August 31, 1997. Section 58.007(c) of the Family Code only applies to juvenile law enforcement records concerning juvenile conduct occurring on or after September 1, 1997 that are maintained by law enforcement agencies. Juvenile law enforcement records concerning conduct that occurred before January 1, 1996, are governed by former section 51.14(d) of the Family Code, which is continued in effect for that purpose. Act of June 2, 1997, H.B. 1550, 75th Leg., R.S.

Here, the requested information involves juvenile conduct that occurred after September 1, 1997. As none of the exceptions in section 58.007 applies, the requested information is confidential pursuant to section 58.007(c) of the Family Code. Thus, you must withhold the requested information under section 552.101 of the Government Code except for the report dated December 26, 1996 as that release is governed by Open Records Decision No. 644 (1996).

We are resolving this matter with an informal letter ruling rather than with a published open records decision. This ruling is limited to the particular records at issue under the facts presented to us in this request and should not be relied on as a previous determination regarding any other records. If you have any questions regarding this ruling, please contact our office.

Yours very truly,


Janet I. Monteros
Assistant Attorney General
Open Records Division

JIM/ch

Ref.: ID# 116446

Enclosures: Submitted documents